



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - August 19, 2003

- ***In the West***, beneficial showers dot portions of **Arizona** and **New Mexico**, but hot, dry weather persists elsewhere. Effects of long-term drought include low reservoir levels in the **Southwest** and **Intermountain West** and stress on rangelands and other dryland agricultural interests.
- ***On the Plains***, hot weather favors fieldwork, including spring wheat harvesting, but continues to stress pastures and immature summer crops. However, scattered showers and thunderstorms are providing beneficial moisture in some locations from the **Dakotas southward into Kansas**.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, highly beneficial but scattered showers are overspreading the **northwestern portion of the region**, locally stabilizing corn and soybean prospects. However, rain is still needed elsewhere in the **western Corn Belt**.
- ***In the South***, isolated thundershowers continue in areas **east of the Delta**, while hot, dry weather favors fieldwork and summer crop maturation in the **lower Mississippi Valley and western Gulf Coast region**.

Outlook: A high-pressure system will maintain mild, dry weather in the **Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States** for much of the week, while warm, humid conditions will help to spark scattered showers across the **Southeast**. Meanwhile, an upper-air disturbance and a developing cold front will trigger showers and locally severe thunderstorms from the **upper Midwest southwestward onto the central Plains**. However, hot weather will continue across the **Plains and Mississippi Valley**, and gradually expand eastward across the **Corn Belt**. Elsewhere, widely scattered showers are possible in the **Southwest**. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 24-28 calls for above-normal rainfall in the **Gulf and Atlantic Coast States**, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected across the **upper Midwest and northern portions of the Rockies and Plains**. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the **West, northern Plains, and Great Lakes region**, while cooler-than-normal weather will prevail in the **South**.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>